

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-06
CEA-01 AGRE-00 /094 W
-----058534 200430Z /75

R 190102Z JAN 78
FM AMCONGEN NAPLES IT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5863
INFO RUFHOM /AMEMB ROME IT//2273
RUFHOM /AMCONSUL FLORENCE IT//83
RUFHOM /AMCONSUL GENOA IT//105
AMCONSUL MILAN IT
RUFHOM /AMCONSUL PALERMO IT//131
RUFHOM /AMCONSUL TRIESTE IT//POUCH
RUFHOM /AMCONSUL TURIN IT//POUCH
RUFHBS /AMEMB BRUSSELS BE//69

UNCLAS NAPLES 103
USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EC, IT
SUBJECT: NAPLES TO BE REDESIGNATED PORT OF ENTRY FOR STEEL AND
TEXTILE IMPORTS
REF: ROME 0686

1. THE JANUARY 5 GOI DECREE (REFTEL) EXCLUDING NAPLES (ALONG WITH
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OTHERS) AS PORT FOR IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN IRON, STEEL AND TEXTILE
PRODUCTS PRODUCED SHOCK HERE. NAPLES MANAGEMENT AND LABOR ORGANI-
ZATIONS AS WELL AS POLITICAL ENTITIES AND GROUPS SPANNING THE
SPECTRUM PROTESTED AS ONE AGAINST THE DECREE. NAPLES PORT
CONSORTIUM PRESIDENT RICCIO SPOKE FOR THE POLITICAL LEFT, RIGHT AND
CENTER IN A CABLE TO PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI IN WHICH HE NOTED THAT
THE DECREE IS "A GRAVE BLOW" TO A LOCAL ECONOMY ALREADY DEEP IN
CRISIS. RICCIO QUESTIONED THE "LEGITIMACY" OF THE DECREE WHICH
"GRAVELY DISCRIMINATES" AGAINST NAPLES AND FAVORS NORTHERN CITIES.
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HE DEMANDED IMMEDIATE REVOCATION AS A DEMONSTRATION OF GOI COMMIT-
MENT TO CAMPANIA AND THE MEZZOGIORNO. IN A JANUARY 17 STATEMENT
THE CAMPANIA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT NOTED THAT CIRCA 400,000 TONS OF
STEEL AND TIN PRODUCTS AND 200,000 TONS OF TEXTILES ARE IMPORTED
ANNUALLY THROUGH THE PORT OF NAPLES. IN ADDITION TO THE DECREE'S
OTHER EFFECTS (TRANSPORTATION SURCHARGE FOR EXAMPLE WHICH MIGHT
ELIMINATE THE COMPETITIVE EDGE OF IMPORTED PRODUCTS), THE CAMPANIA

REGION DECLARED THAT THIS "SIMPLE GOI ADMINISTRATIVE ACT WILL CAUSE NAPLES TO LOSE 15,000 WORKING DAYS PER YEAR". PORT WORKERS, NOW ON A 7-WORKING DAYS PER MONTH SCHEDULE, WOULD APPARENTLY BE CUT BACK TO 4-DAYS PER MONTH AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE DECREE.

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2. FOLLOWING A WEEK OF CLAMOROUS PROTEST THE CARETAKER GOI SURRENDERED. FINANCE MINISTER PANDOLFI AT A JANUARY 18 MEETING WITH NEAPOLITAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC OFFICIALS PROMISED TO REVISE THE EARLIER DECREE AND REINCLUDE NAPLES (WITHIN A WEEK OR SO) AS A PORT OF ENTRY FOR STEEL AND TEXTILE PRODUCTS. THE EARLIER DECREE WAS INTENDED TO PREVENT "DUMPING" OF SEMI-FINISHED STEEL AND TEXTILE PRODUCTS (MANY FROM THE US), BUT ITS AUTHORS IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY PERHAPS FAILED TO ANTICIPATE THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC OUTCRY IN NAPLES OR AT LEAST BASED THEIR DECISION ON THEN MORE PRESSING POLITICAL PRESSURES AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

3. THE DECREE REVISION SHOULD BE WELCOMED HERE BY ALL, INCLUDING US FIRMS WHICH EARLIER CONTACTED CONSULATE GENERAL AND EMBASSY WITH TALES OF WOE AND DISCRIMINATION. ALTHOUGH SALERNO IS STILL EXCLUDED THE TEXTILE PRODUCTS WHICH ENTERED THERE CAN NOW BE IMPORTED THROUGH NAPLES. PROTESTS FROM OTHER EXCLUDED PORTS OF ENTRY CONTINUE. COLANTONIO.

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Message Attributes

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